...YAMASHITA MIDORI...
WE WENT TO FIND OUT A BIT ABOUT YOU.
FROM THE AGE OF THREE, UNTIL RECENTLY
YOU WERE RAISED IN A CHILDREN'S HOME, RIGHT?
TSUBASA IS THERE RIGHT NOW.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING ALL ABOUT...
...THE KING!
ばっ
.....

ecret King's Room
CHAPTER 40: SORROWFUL TWINS

ザッ
THIS IS...
...THE PLACE WHERE MIDORI-KUN WAS RAISED...

UGH, I CAN'T REACH!
DO YOUR BEST!
Jingle all the way!
Jingle Bells, jingle bells!
NO NO
IT'S SANTA!
OH!

STUPID! THERE'S NO WAY SHE'S SANTA! SHE'S A GIRL!
BUT SHE'S A FOREIGNER!
BLONDE = FOREIGNER = SANTA
HO HO HO! YER, I IS SANTA, LITTLE ONE!
I CAME TO HELP OUT WITH THE DECORATIONS!
STRETCH A BIT!
JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE!
YOU CAN DO IT!

SANTA'S HERE!
MA-TRON!
WHOA!
UM... WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
SWAY
THE MATRON?

SHE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MIDORI-KUN'S PAST.
ARE YOU YAMASHITA MIDORI-KUN'S FRIEND?!
I CAME HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HIM.
YES, I'M HIS CLASS-MATE
I GET ALONG WITH HIM REALLY WELL
THEN... MIDORI-KUN IS DOING WELL?
HE SUDDENLY LEFT, SO I WAS WORRIED

WHEN HE ARRIVED HERE...
...IT WAS LIKE HE DIDN'T HAVE A SOUL.
THAT'S GREAT...
SO HE'S GETTING ALONG WITH HIS CLASS-MATES...
I'M RELIEVED.
U-UM! COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME MORE?
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT MIDORI-KUN...!
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.
DIDN'T HAVE...
A SOUL...?

THERE'S ANOTHER MIDORI-KUN!?

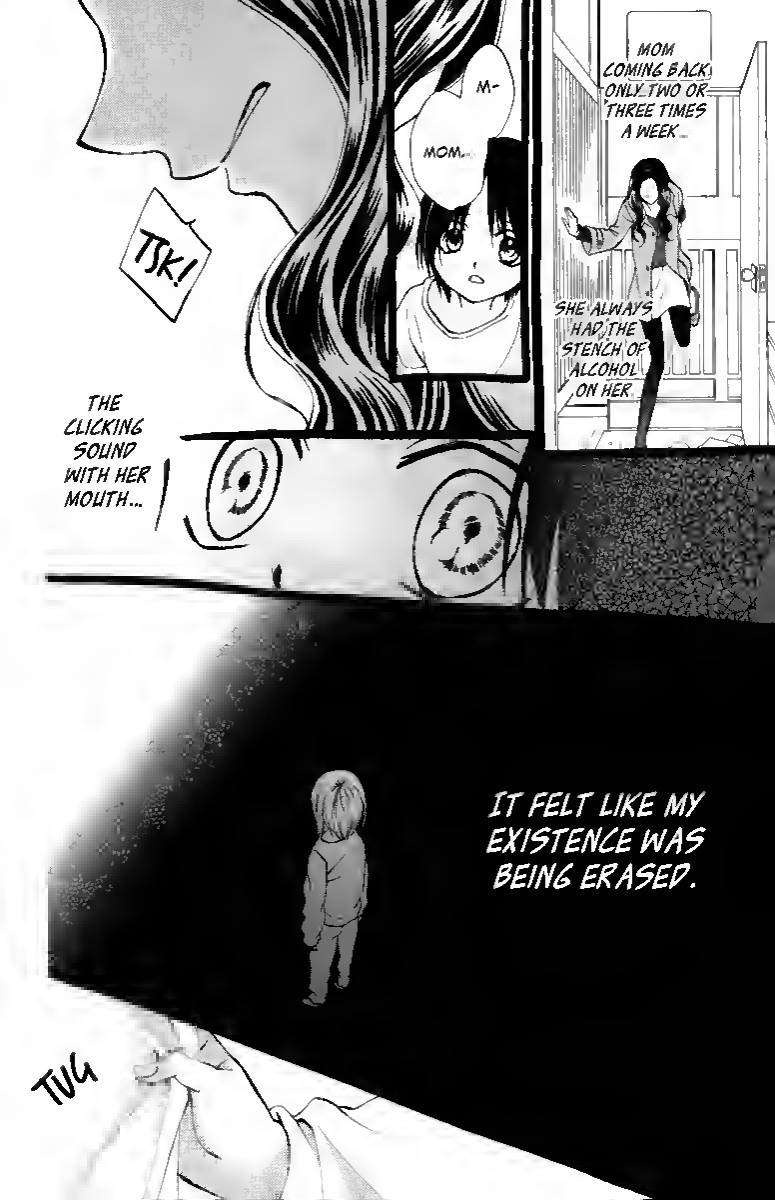
THIS
WHEN MIDORI-KUN CAME HERE,
THIS WAS ONE OF THE MANY COPIES HE HAD WITH HIM
THIS KID'S NAME IS
YA-MASHITA AKARI-KUN
HE'S MIDORI-KUN'S YOUNGER TWIN.

MIDORI HAS...
...A TWIN TOO...
BUT! THAT YOUNGER BROTHER... NOW...?
WHERE IS AKARI-KUN?
...HE PASSED AWAY
HE WAS SICK...

SINCE HE PASSED AWAY IN FRONT OF HIM.
BUT
MIDORI-KUN
DIDN'T THINK SO
WHAT...
.....
...HAP-PENED?
.....
IT'S SAID THAT...
...CHILDREN ARE LIKE ANGELS BUT...
THERE ARE MOTHERS WHO DON'T THINK LIKE THAT

"CHILD NEGLECT."
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO 'NEGLECT'?
MIDORI-KUN'S MOTHER DID THAT.
DIRTY!
DIRTY!
DIRTY!
DIRTY!
DIRTY!
DIRTY!

EVEN NOW,
I CAN CLEARLY REMEMBER...
FILLED WITH RUBBISH.
THE ROOM...
DIRTY!
WEARING THE SAME CLOTHES FOR MANY MONTHS.
TRYING TO SATISFY MY STOMACH WITH WHATEVER WAS IN THE FRIDGE


MOM COMING BACK ONLY TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK...
SHE ALWAYS HAD THE STENCH OF ALCOHOL ON HER.
M-
MOM...
TSK!
THE CLICKING SOUND WITH HER MOUTH...
IT FELT LIKE MY EXISTENCE WAS BEING ERASED.
TUG

MIDORI!
AKARI.
I WILL DEFINITELY PROTECT AKARI!
THE ONLY ONE WHO CALLED ME BY NAME WAS
AKARI.

HE'S MY MOST
PRECIOUS BROTHER IN THE WORLD
TO THE TWO OF THEM, THE OTHER'S PRESENCE WAS THEIR ENTIRE WORLD
THEY HAD NEVER GONE OUTSIDE.
THAT'S WHAT THEIR MOTHER ORDERED.
NOT EVEN ONCE?
YOU CAN NEVER GO OUTSIDE.
LISTEN

TO CHILDREN, THEIR MOTHER'S WORDS ARE ABSOLUTE TRUTH.
AFTER MIDORI-KUN'S MOTHER DID THAT, SHE GAVE UP HER RIGHTS TO HER CHILDREN.
THE TWO OF THEM WERE AN EXISTENCE NOT PRESENT IN THIS WORLD.
THERE ARE
LOTS OF MONSTERS OUTSIDE.

AKARI... IT'S GOING TO BE FINE.
IT'S GOING TO BE FINE.
THEN...
MOM...
...HASN'T COME BACK AT ALL...
NOT EVEN AFTER A MONTH.
EVEN AFTER 10 DAYS HAD PASSED...
BUT THEIR MOTHER NEVER CAME BACK.
SHE HAD ABANDONED THEM.

AKARI...?
INSIDE A ROOM WITHOUT A HEATER, IT WAS ABOUT AS COLD AS SITTING IN A FREEZER.
THE WINTER THAT YEAR, THERE WAS A RECORD BREAKING COLD-FRONT.
EVEN THEN, THE ONLY THING THE TWO OF THEM COULD DO WAS WAIT.
FOR DAYS.
AND DAYS.
EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NOTHING TO EAT.
AND DURING THIS TIME, THERE WASN'T ANY WATER.

AKARI...?
MI-DORI...?
S-
SORRY!
HOLD ON, AKARI!
MI...
ゴボ
ゴボゴボ

THERE ARE
LOTS OF MONSTERS OUTSIDE.
BUT...
Wheeze
Wheeze
I WILL...
DEFI-NITELY PROTECT AKARI!!

pant
pant
!
IT'S SANTA!

sfx whack
UM, PLEASE!
IF IT'S SANTA, HE'LL HELP ME!
PLEASE SAVE MY LITTLE BROTHER!
WHOA!
DIRTY! LET GO!
PLEASE
SOME-ONE!
UM—
PLEASE...
OH

SAVE MY BROTHER!
SOMEONE... PLEASE!
UGH!
SFX: shove
IT'S REALLY TRUE...
IT'S TRUE...

EVERY-
ONE...
IS A
MONSTER!

AKA-
paint
paint

IT SEEMS LIKE HIS BROTHER'S BODY WAS WEAK FROM THE START.
HE COULDN'T STAND THE COLD.
EVEN AFTER MANY DAYS AFTER WE FOUND HIM..
MY DREAM IS TO FIND MY MOTHER.
...MIDORI DIDN'T SHOW ANY EMOTIONS.
THIS MIGHT
REALLY BE TRUE!

BUT I'M...
...SO RELIEVED THAT HE'S DOING WELL NOW.
MIDORI-KUN IS CRAVING FOR LOVE.
IS HE TRYING TO TAKE THAT BACK...?
I SAW HIM ON THE NEWS, TOO!
THAT'S RIGHT
HE'S GOING TO ATTEND THE CHRISTMAS SUMMIT, RIGHT?
THAT'S WONDERFUL!
OH...
MIDORI-KUN WANTS TO FIND HIS MOTHER THERE.
YES...

HUH...?
TSUBASA!
PLEASE COME AGAIN!
WHAT..?
?
NO, IT'S NOTHING
PLEASE SEND MY REGARDS TO MIDORI-KUN

MANA-BE...
SO WHAT DID YOU HEAR?
THERE'S ANOTHER MIDORI...?
SO..
SORT OF...
...YOU KNEW THAT? THAT THERE WAS ONE MORE PERSON?
I FOUND THIS
INSIDE MIDORI'S ROOM.

TSUBASA!
HE'S THE SAME AS ME
HE REALLY TREASURED HIM
HE REALLY TREASURED IT
THAT'S RIGHT
HE WAS TAKEN FOREVER..
IF
BUT..

2 - B

IT'S FIN-ISHED!
WE MADE ONE THOUSAND CRANES!
WE MADE IT!
IT'S FOR TOMORROW!
We just made it in the!
WE WORKED SO HARD!
MIDORI-KUN!
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR? I WAS WORRIED
MIDORI-KUN...?

hug
I WANT YOU BESIDE ME
UNTIL TOMORROW ENDS
OF COURSE.
THAT'S NOT RIGHT...
MIDORI-KUN...

...PLANS TO TAKE REVENGE...
...ON HIS MOTHER!

なかよし
ARISA
アリサ
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HEY YOU!
HAVE SOME FREE TIME?
APPLY NOW!
TITANIA IS CURRENTLY
LOOKING FOR NEW STAFFS!
ALL POSITIONS AVAILABLE.
CLEANERS
HTTP://WWW.TITANIASCANS.COM/FORUM